

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: November 15, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on November 10, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Remedial Construction Start and Sign Unveiling Ceremony,
Continental Steel Corp. Superfund Site, Kokomo, Indiana**

On October 30, 2006, Mayor Matt McKillip, and representatives from the City of Kokomo, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) met with the media to provide an update on remedial construction activities planned for the Main Plant, and Wildcat and Kokomo Creek portions of the site. In addition, a sign for the Highland Park Sports and Recreational Complex was unveiled across from the main gate to the former Continental Steel Plant. State and Federal funding will be used to cleanup soils on the main plant property beginning in November of this year. Dredging of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) - contaminated sediment in six separate reaches of Wildcat and Kokomo Creek, estimated at \$7.8 million, will begin this November and will be completed next Summer. U.S. EPA has spent approximately \$66 million on Superfund cleanup actions at the site. The Agency's financial commitment will continue by securing the remaining cleanup funds over the next 4 years. The City of Kokomo received funding under the Superfund Reuse Program to conduct community meetings and gather information from a variety of stakeholders regarding potential reuse of the main plant property. All of these efforts are excellent examples of

how Superfund cleanups and redevelopment can walk hand in hand. According to Mayor McKillip, this project is a good example of how the City of Kokomo is working with State and Federal Agencies to provide a better place to live, work, and raise a family and to create the types of cultural amenities that residents and business have come to expect.

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Potentially Responsible Parties Pay Past Response Costs, Lindsay Light II Site, Chicago, Illinois

The Lindsay Light II property, Chicago, Illinois, is contaminated with radioactive thorium. U.S. EPA identified the contamination in 2000. In 2001, the owner and its developer partner told U.S. EPA of their plans to develop the property, but have delayed the development. The owner and developer have refused to enter into any administrative agreement with U.S. EPA because the owner has asserted an innocent landowner defense because it took title to the property by bequeath. U.S. EPA has not recognized this claim because after taking the title the owner caused an actual or threatened release of radioactive thorium. At the owner's and developer's request, U.S. EPA reviewed their work plans for radiation surveillance at the property and they have incorporated the changes suggested by U.S. EPA. They have also reportedly entered into an agreement with Tronox, the corporate successor to Kerr-McGee (the generator), for transportation and disposal of any radioactive contamination. Recently, U.S. EPA issued a demand letter to the owner and Tronox for \$51,535.59 in past response costs related to this property. In October 2006, the owner and Tronox paid the costs in full. According to the owner and developer the radiation cleanup and high-rise construction will begin in May 2007. The Lindsay Light Team has recovered approximately \$750,000 which was directed to a Lindsay Light Special Account (such funds are used to pay for response costs associated with radioactive contamination in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago). The Team could not direct the

\$51,535.5 to the Special Account because only funds received pursuant to an agreement may be directed to a Special Account.

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Administrative Complaint Filed, The Detroit Edison Company, River Rouge, Michigan

On October 20, 2006, the U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against The Detroit Edison Company, River Rouge, Michigan. The complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Section 304. The Detroit Edison Company failed to immediately notify the National Response Center of 10,559-pound release of sodium hypochlorite that occurred on May 6, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. Sodium hypochlorite is a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 100 pounds. This release was about 10.5 times the RQ. The person in charge of the facility notified the National Response Center of the release on May 7, 2003, at 11:55 a.m., or about 20 hours and 55 minutes after the release. The owner or operator of the facility notified the State Emergency Response Commission on May 7, 2003, at 12:05 p.m., or about 21 hours and 5 minutes after the release.

The owner or operator notified the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on May 7, 2003, at 11:45 a.m., or about 20 hours and 45 minutes after the release. The owner or operator of the facility provided the written follow-up report to the SERC on May 16, 2003, or ten days after the release. The owner or operator of the facility never provided the LEPC with the written follow-up report. The total proposed penalty in the complaint is \$144,412.67. The Detroit Edison Company has 30 days to respond to the complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Congressional Briefing (Removal Assessment Activities), Feddeler Landfill, Lowell, Indiana

On November 2, 2006, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Bill Simes, Jim Mitchell, and Charlie Gebien, Chief Emergency Response Section 3, briefed Congressman Peter Visclosky, Indiana's First

Congressional District, of ongoing removal assessment activities at the Feddeler Landfill in Lowell, Indiana. Congressman Visclosky requested the briefing through the Office of the Regional Administrator. Philip Hoffman, Congressional Liaison, completed the arrangements. The assessment started on October 24, 2006, and involves evaluation of landfill gas, landfill seeps, storm water runoff, and an investigation of historical disposal of wastes within the landfill. U.S. EPA initiated the removal assessment after testing at the landfill by a contractor for Lake County suggested gas that contained hydrogen cyanide was being released from the landfill to the atmosphere. After the removal assessment is complete, U.S. EPA will be able to properly determine any necessary actions to be taken and the costs associated with those decisions.

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Site Inspection & Meeting, Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site, Columbia City, Indiana

A site inspection and meeting took place on October 17, 2006, at the Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site in Columbia City, Indiana. U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) are currently reviewing a proposal by the Wayne Waste Oil Potential Responsible Party Group to suspend operation of the soil vapor extraction (SVE) and air sparging systems in the Southeast Area of the site. The two systems have been operating since 1996, and the volatile organic compound (VOC) removal rate has reached an asymptotic state of less than 0.3 pounds per day.

The SVE and air sparging systems would continue to operate in the AST Area of the site.

The Wayne Waste Oil Superfund site (also referred to as Wayne Reclamation) is approximately 30 acres in size, and includes a municipal waste landfill, groundwater pump and treatment system, slurry wall, air sparging system, and a soil vapor extraction system. The Wayne Waste Oil site is currently in operation & maintenance.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Emergency Planning Presentation, Peoples Republic of China (PRC) Visitors, Chicago, Illinois**

On October 27, Bill Bolen, Michael Harris, and Glenn Cekus provided an Emergency Planning presentation to the China State Reserve Bureau Delegation for Natural Resource Reserve and Management. The presentation took place in the U.S. EPA Region 5 Regional Administrator's conference room in Chicago and was coordinated by Vacys Saulys, International Programs Manager.

After an introductory session addressing U.S. EPA and other Federal agency emergency response roles and capabilities by Mr. Saulys, Mr. Cekus provided an overview of the reporting and planning provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Emphasis was placed on the writing of EPCRA emergency plans, facility reporting requirements, enforcement penalties, and the information provided by a potentially responsible party when reporting a release of oil or chemicals to the National Response Center.

Mr. Bolen and Mr. Harris then provided a description of the Incident Command System (ICS) mentioning its advantages, flexibilities, and recent use in a number of events, including last years hurricanes. The delegation expressed an interest in the above and asked a number of questions regarding response equipment, stockpiling of emergency supplies, and health and safety for agency personnel.

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SPCC Regulatory Update, MASCO Corporation, Detroit, Michigan

On October 25, 2006, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Coordinator, conducted two seminars for MASCO Corporation, Detroit, Michigan. MASCO is one of the world's largest manufacturers of brand-name consumer products for the home improvement and new construction markets. Just a few of their companies include Behr paints, Franklin Brass Mfg. Corp., Delta Faucet Co., Masterchem Industries, LLC, Kraftmaid Cabinetry, Inc., and Vapor Technologies, Inc. MASCO employs approximately 62,000 people and has manufacturing facilities

throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Dr. Carr provided a summary of the most recent proposed revisions (December 2005) to the SPCC regulation, the major components of the regulation including revisions published in August 2002, the compliance deadlines of October 31, 2007, the Regional Inspector's Guidance document, and what to expect during an inspection.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

SPCC Full Day Regulatory Update, Federation of Environmental Technologists, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On October 24, 2006, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Coordinator, conducted an all day seminar for members of the Federation of Environmental Technologists (FET), Inc., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. FET is a non-profit organization established in 1982 to assist industry in the interpretation of and compliance with environmental regulations. The group is celebrating its 24th anniversary of serving the environmental community. Membership is open to all industries, municipalities, organizations, and individuals concerned about environmental regulations. Currently there are approximately 800 members and 150 patron companies.

Dr. Carr gave a summary of the most recent proposed revisions (December 2005) to the SPCC regulation, the major components of the regulation, including revisions published in August 2002, the compliance deadlines of October 31, 2007, the Regional Inspector's Guidance document, what to expect during an inspection, applicability exercises, and over 100 recent inspection photos. Approximately 90 people attended the seminar. The FET chairperson commented that the seminar went extremely well and members were grateful to have a chance to have their questions answered.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

Career Exploration Event, Annapolis High School, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

On November 1, 2006, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Michelle Jaster, James Justice, and Brian Schlieger attended the Career Exploration event, "Create Tomorrow's Plan", from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Annapolis High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

U.S. EPA used the opportunity to meet one-on-one with students and parents to discuss such aspects as job duties, nature of work, applicable high school course work, and other general advice regarding employment with the Agency. The focus of the event was to offer career choices using Michigan's six Career Pathways, Arts and Communications, Business, Engineering, Health and Human Services, and Natural Resources, by providing the parents and students the opportunity to explore areas of interest that can help the students in making decisions for their future. Pam Gallichio provided pens and pencils to be handed out for students and a display board. Mick Hans from the Office of Public Affairs provided general informational handouts. Martha Armstrong provided pens and pencils and informational handouts relating to employment opportunities with the Agency.

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**Training (Waukegan Fire Department), Outboard Marine Corp.
Superfund Site (OMC Plant 2 Operable Unit), Waukegan, Illinois**

In mid-October 2006, a representative of the Waukegan Fire Department (WFD) contacted Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Kevin Adler to see if the department could use a small portion of the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) Plant 2 site to practice trench-rescue techniques over a 3-day period, November 2-4, 2006.

Members of area fire and rescue departments were invited to participate in the training, as well. The OMC Plant 2 site was chosen because the City of Waukegan now owns the property and the department wished to practice trench-rescue techniques in very sandy soil with a high water table. The WFD had its eye on one of the hilly, grassy areas located north of the Plant 2 building as a potential training area.

Having just completed a remedial investigation at the 60-acre site, RPM Adler was able to select a "clean" (PCB-free) area in which the WFD could set up its training; in front of the abandoned Plant 2 building. The WFD contacted the utility to mark potential utilities and on November 2, a small backhoe was used to dig a shallow, 15-foot long trench in the ground.

Invited guests of the November 2nd training included members of the Buffalo Grove, Zion, Lake Forest, and Newton Township fire departments, and the Lake County Special Rescue Team. RPM Kevin Adler attended and provided information to the guests and participants concerning the Plant 2 building and the site. The

training was concluded for the day at about noon and the trench

was filled in to prevent overnight accidents. A new trench will then be dug for each of the remaining training days.

Contact: Kevin Adler (312-886-7078)

Conference, Green Engineering at Cleanup Sites, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

On October 24-25, 2006, U.S. EPA Region 5, in partnership with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Chicago Wilderness, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and the City of Chicago, hosted a one and a half day conference focusing on the integrated design and application of green engineering techniques that can be applied during the redevelopment of cleanup sites.

During the first day, the course participants visited and toured an empty factory in Chicago, and then drove by bus to a range of cleanup and redevelopment sites in Chicago. The City of Chicago took part in explaining projects to the course participants. The empty factory served as the focus of the green engineering analysis exercise, which was conducted on the second day of the conference. The second day of the conference began with a panel of engineers, who addressed energy efficiency, water efficiency, storm water management, and alternative energy. This panel was moderated by an Architect with extensive green building experience. During the afternoon, the participants were led through a series of hands-on design exercises and calculations, leading to recommendations for a coordinated strategy for green redevelopment of the building and site.

A professor at UIUC brought his class of 25 students to Chicago to participate in this conference. The remainder of the 60 participants were mostly practicing engineers. This conference was held in conjunction with the UIUC's first course in Engineering of Sustainable Development.

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Presentation, Petroleum Environmental Research Forum, Naperville, Illinois

On October 26, 2006, Jim Van der Kloot was invited to give a presentation at a meeting of the Petroleum Environmental Research Forum. His presentation covered redevelopment techniques which can have lasting, measurable environmental benefits, including: 1) green buildings; 2) natural storm water management; 3) smart growth; 4) new urbanism; and 5) native landscaping, and focused on the need for quantification of the air, storm water, ecological, and economic benefits of these approaches.

The Forum participants were particularly interested in the quantification of the benefits of green redevelopment practices.

A lengthy conversation with Exxon/Mobil afterward may lead to further collaboration with the Forum on quantification issues. Participants included representatives of: Total, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Argonne National Lab, Exxon Mobil, BP, Shell, and Polymer Ventures.

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